

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Miscellaneous Military Information	DATE DISTR.	28 May 1963
		NO. PAGES	1 50X1-HUM
		REFERENCES	RD

DATE OF INFO.		50X1-HUM
PLACE & DATE ACQ.		

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

two 50X1-HUM reports containing information on the following:

- a. Bulgarian Armed Forces.
- b. Bulgarian Border Units, with sketch attached.

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Distribution of attachment: 50X1-HUM

ARMY: Retention 50X1-HUM  
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Subject : Bulgarian Armed Forces

1. In Sofia:

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[ ] there is an infantry unit at the location called 4. klm in Sofia, and a tank unit equipped with js-2 or js-1 type tanks around Gorna Banya.

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[ ] no further information concerning these units.

2. In Lubimets:

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[ ] no ~~other~~ information other than the presence of an infantry unit in Lubimets.

3. In Radomir:

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[ ] no information except that there is an infantry unit in Radomir and [ ] recruit training is carried on there.

4. In Kharmanli:

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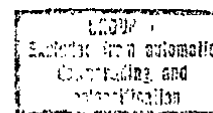
[ ] there is a large infantry unit in Kharmanli. [ ] heard that in October 1961, when the question of Berlin was at its culminating point, units from Stara Zagora and Turnovo joined this unit. [ ] don't have any further information concerning this unit.

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5. In Pernik:

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There are anti-aircraft units in Pernik and surroundings. [ ] there were batteries in three locations; in the vicinity of Pernik Stadium, around Tsirkva village and near Buchene village.



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Subject : Bulgarian border units

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1. [ ] in 1947 specially trained border units were formed to prevent defections from Bulgaria to other countries and vice-versa.

From the date of their formation upto 22 June 1962, the border units were attached to the Ministry of Interior through the General Command of the Border Units in Sofia. On 22 June 1962 they were subordinated to the Ministry of Defence.

2. Changes which took place at the border units:

1- The manpower of the border units was decreased in October 1961. Upon receiving an order, the reserve forces at the Komandaturas and 3-5 men from each Zastava were sent to Regiment Hdq. and probably some of the reserve forces were transferred with the troops from there to the armed forces. (sic)

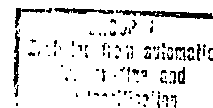
There are no forces left at the Komandaturas. The latter are now charged with establishing connections between Otryads and Zastavas.

In cases of emergency an auxiliary force consisting of privates belonging to the engineering, supplies and communication units at the Otryad, are dispatched to the border line.

2- Radio receiving and transmitting sets were supplied to the Zastavas in July 1961. Two privates of each Zastava were subjected to a training of 2 months at the Otryad to learn how to operate these sets. In December 1961 all the equipments at the Zastavas as well as the wireless sets at the Komandaturas were taken away. The only means of connection between the Otryads and the Zastavas and Komandaturas currently are the telephones. The Zastavas are not directly connected with the Otryad by telephone, they send their messages through the Komandaturas.

3- Until October 1961 the Zastavas supplied their provisions, ammunitions and clothing requirements from the Komandaturas. On that date the storages at the Komandaturas were vacated after the forces were taken away. Currently the supplies of the Zastavas are provided directly from the Otryads, but the officers of the Komandaturas inspect the Zastavas.

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3. Formation of the border units:

- 1- Ministry of Defence - in Sofia
- 2- General Command of the border units: in Sofia. The commander was brigadier-general Slavi CHAKIROV until early 1962. He was replaced by major-general Demir BORACHEV on that date.

3- Otryads:

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[ ] there are 13 Otryads at the border zone of Bulgaria charged with maintaining the security of the area. The ones [ ] are: 1) 6th Otryad in Elkhovo, 13th Otryad in Lubimets. 2) [ ]

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[ ] there are Otryads in Kostendil, Vidin and Malko Turnovo

4- Komandaturas:1) Subordinate to the 13th Otryad:

[ ] there is a Komandatura in Svilengrad.

[ ] its code name is Orlon.

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2) Subordinate to the 6th Otryad:

- a) 1st Komandatura in Varnik village.
- b) 2nd Komandatura in Lesovo village.
- c) 3rd Komandatura in Fakiya village.
- d) [ ] a 4th Komandatura was established

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between the 2nd and 3rd Komandaturas in July 1961, [ ]

5- Zastavas:

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1) [ ] there are 21 Zastavas subordinate to the 13th Otryad. [ ] the location of two Zastavas probably subordinate to the Komandatura in Svilengrad.

a - The 20th Zastava in Kapitan Andreevo village, Khaskovo.

b - The 21st Zastava in Chernodip village, Khaskovo.

2) There are 18 Zastavas subordinate to the 6th Otryad. The first six are attached to the <sup>1st</sup> Komandatura in Varnik. [ ] no information concerning the others.

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Zastavas subordinate to the 1st Komandatura:

- a) 1st Zastava in Shtit village.
- b) 2nd Zastava around Mikhalich village.
- c) 3rd Zastava around Blaguntsi village.
- d) 4th Zastava around Matochina village.

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6- Border patrols or guards (Naryats): These consist of two patrolmen or guards and are considered the smallest units of the border troops.

Note: Detailed information concerning the formation of the 6th Otryad and the function of the border units are stated below.

4. 6th Otryad located in Elkhovo:

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1-The Otryad Hq. is in Elkhovo. [ ] its location [ ] not been to Elkhovo.

2- The 6th Otryad [ ] its commander is Col.KRISTEV and its code name is Temenuga.

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3- The 6th Otryad is charged with maintaining security on the [ ] frontier area between the 13th Otryad in Lubimets and the Otryads in Malko Turnovo. The responsibility area of this Otryad begins from between boundary stone marks 308-309 around Shtit village, Khaskovo, but [ ] don't know upto where it stretches in the east. The activity area of the Otryad towards the interior of Bulgaria from the border line is not limited.

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But the secondary restricted zone which stretches parallelly to the border line and has a width of 15 klm, as well as the 2 klm wide ~~XXXX~~ primary restricted zone in parallel to the border line, can be considered as the main activity areas of the Otryad. The Otryad is more active at the 2 klm area which is the primary restricted zone.

4- Formation of the 6th Otryad:

1) 6th Otryad in Elkhovo: [ ] code name Temenuga, comd. Col.KHRISTEV.

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2) Hqs of 6th Otryad in Elkhovo: Hdq chief Lieut.Col.KOSTADINOV.

3) Units subordinate to 6th Otryad Hdq. in Elkhovo:

a) Engineering unit: Probably consists of 2 squads (20 men), comd. VLADINOV.

b) Construction unit: Probably consists of 20 ~~men~~ (2 squads). According to refugee this unit is apart from the engineering unit.

c) Supplies unit: [ ] don't know the manpower.

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d) Communication unit: Probably consists of 2 squads (20 men). They also instal telephone lines and make repairs at the Otryad area.

e) Corporals (sergeants) training school: [ ] no information concerning this.

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4) Komandaturas subordinate to the 6th Otryad:a) 1st Komandatura - in Varnik village: [ ] cmd. Major KAR<sup>AKHATOV</sup> 50X1-HUM  
code name Granit.b) 2nd Komandatura - in Lesovo village: [ ] no information on this  
Komandatura.

c) 3rd Komandatura - in Fakiya village: [ ] no information. 50X1-HUM

d) 4th Komandatura (?) : [ ] such a Komandatura would  
be established between Fakiya and Lesovo villages in July 1961. [ ]  
no other information respecting this.5) Zastavas subordinate to the 6th Otryad: There are 18 Zastavas,  
Zastavas subordinate to the 1st Komandatura: 50X1-HUMa) 1st Zastava - in Shtit village: [ ] cmd. Major TONEV, code  
name Dnepir. [ ]b) 2nd Zastava - in Mikhalich village: [ ] nothing about this Zastava  
except that its commander is Captain RAYKOV. 50X1-HUMc) 3rd Zastava - near Blaguntzi village: No knowledge except that its  
commander is Captain TSUREV.

d) 4th Zastava - near Matochina village: No information. 50X1-HUM

e) 5th Zastava and 6th Zastava: [ ] don't even know their locations. 50X1-HUM

Zastavas subordinate to other Komandaturas: [ ] no information  
concerning same.5 - Manpower of the 6th Otryad: 50X1-HUM1) At Otryad Hdq. [ ] don't know the number of officers here.[ ] there are 70-80 soldiers, 10-15 NCO, from the  
construction, engineering and supplies branches. The NCOs are in charge  
of the supplies and transportations. This force is sent to the border line  
as a reserve force in case of necessity. The engineering units are  
employed in the building of warning, trap devices and barriers on the  
border line. The engineering unit is also employed in various construction  
work and repairing work in the Otryad area.2) At the Komandaturas: Until October 1961 there were enough  
soldiers to form a platoon at the Komandaturas. They were stationed  
as a reserve force on the border line and in case of necessity the  
Zastavas were strengthened with them. On that date the reserve forces  
at the Komandaturas were summoned to the Otryads and sent to join 50X1-HUM  
the armed forces (sic). [ ]  
there are 4 officers, one NCO and 6-7 privates at the Komandaturas.  
One of the officers is the battalion commander, the other one is the  
political commander and the other two are intelligence officers.

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One of the intelligence officers is in charge of civilians, the other takes care of military units. 2-4 soldiers are signalmen, 2 are car drivers, one is the film operator and one the cart driver. The NCO is in charge of the supplies and reinforcements.

3) At the Zastavas: They consist of 3 officers, 1 NCO and 35-40 privates. One officer is the Zastava commander, the second political commander, and the third is the assistant regular commander. The NCO is in charge of the supplies and reinforcements. The privates form 3 squads. The squad commander is a sergeant or a sergeant candidate. The squads formed by the border privates bear no relation to their activity, because the border duty is performed by 2 men and it is not necessary for them to belong to the same squad. The forming of squads is rather more for purposes of defending the Zastava and for taking part in a joint operation. Part of the existing force at the Zastava is always on different kinds of border duty, whilst part of the force rests at the Zastava or takes care of the cleaning and repairs. The number of men on duty at the border and of those at the Zastava varies according to the daily order.

6- Weapons and ammunitions at the 6th Otryad:

1) At the Otryad Hdq.:

- a) 7.62 mm light machine guns of Dikteryov type (number unknown)
- b) 7.62 mm self-propelled rifles of Kalashnikov type
- c) 7.62 mm infantry rifles of Simonovka type
- d) Hand grenades for attacking and defense purposes of F-1, F-2 type
- e) Bullets for 7.62 mm rifles and light machine guns, stamped 1941.

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2) At the Komandaturas:

Formerly there were light machine guns at the Komandaturas. When the manpower of Komandaturas was decreased in October 1961, only infantry rifles of Kalashnikov and Simonovka type were left. They don't even have hand grenades. [ ] there are stocks of 7.62 mm bullets.

3) At the Zastavas:

a) 7.62 mm light machine guns of Dikteryov type (3). Each squad is equipped with one. The guns are kept always at the Zastava for being used in case the Zastava is attacked.

b) Self-propelled rifles of Kalashnikov type. Half of the privates at the Zastava are equipped with these rifles. There were about 18 at the Zastava in Shtit village [ ] There were 4 more for the three officers and one NCO.

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c) Infantry rifles of Simonovka type. The other half of the privates at the Zastava are equipped with these. There were about 18 of them at the Zastava in Shtit village.

d) High-powered Mauser rifles of probably Malinher type. These are kept in the munitions depot of each Zastava. In case of necessity they are distributed to the civilians who cooperate with the border units.

e) Hand grenades of F-1, F-2 type for defense and attacking purposes. There were about 100 at the Zastava in Shtit village.

f) Pistol firing skyrockets. There are 2 at the Zastava in Shtit.

g) 7.62 mm infantry rifle bullets. There ~~was~~ a permanent stock of 17,000 bullets at the Zastava in Shtit. The bullets used in firing drills were not taken from this stock. They were taken, if necessary, from the Komandaturas.

h) Bullets for the Mausers (?) of Malinher type. There were 100 bullets in the Zastava of Shtit village.

i) Skyrockets. They are red, green and white colored. There is an ample stock at each Zastava.

☐ haven't seen other weapons at the border units and ☐ don't believe there are any.

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#### 7 - Transportation and communication means at the 6th Otryad:

##### 1) At the Otryad Hdq:

a) Transportation means. There are 4 trucks and 3 jeeps. 3 trucks of Molotovka type and one of Ziz model.

##### b) Communication means.

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1) Telephone stations: ~~Until 1961~~ The Otryad Hdq. has a telephone communication system with all the Komandaturas as well as with the General Command of the border units in Sofia. ☐ believe that Hdq. is communicated by a civilian system with the neighboring Otryads and the headquarters of armed units in its area.

2) Wireless equipments: Until 1961 December, the Zastavas and Komandaturas were equipped with radio telephone sets. These were taken off on that date. ☐ don't know whether the Otryads are equipped with radio wireless or radio telephone sets. ☐ the Otryads have such equipments and can communicate with Sofia with same.

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##### 2) At the Komandaturas:

##### a) Transportation means: At the Komandatura in Varnik:

- 1) A truck
- 2) A jeep
- 3) A horsecart
- 4) Two carthorses
- 5) Two riding horses

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There were more horses and mules at this Zastava until the end of 1961. ~~For the sake of brevity~~ On account of this [ ] the other Komandaturas are in possession of the same number of transportation means.

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## b) Communication means:

1) Telephone stations: The Komandaturas have telephone 50X1-HUM communications with their Zastavas and the Otryads to which they are subordinate. [ ] they can communicate with the two neighboring Komandaturas by means of the civilian telephone system.

2) Radio telephone sets: There was a radio-telephone equipment at the Komandaturas until December 1961. These were taken off then, so that now there are no other communication means than the telephones at the Komandaturas.

3) At the Zastavas:

## a) Transportation means: At the Zastava in Shtit:

- 1) A horsecart
- 2) Two cart horses
- 3) Three riding horses

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[ ] the other Zastavas have the same transportation means.

## b) Communication means:

1) Telephone stations: The Zastavas have a telephone communication with the Komandaturas to which they are attached and the two neighboring Zastavas (even if these are subordinate to another Komandatura or Otryad). There is also an aerial telephone line between the Zastava and various points of the border line, so that a large net system has been established within the area of the Zastava. Soldiers patrolling the border line can switch the plugs of the telephone apparatus they carry into the sockets at fixed points of the net and thus communicate with the Zastava in urgent cases.

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[ ] seen aerial telephone lines everywhere in the area occupied by the border units.

2) Wireless sets: In July 1961 all the Zastavas, including the Zastava of Shtit, were equipped with wireless sets. But in December 1961 these sets were dismantled. [ ] currently there are no wireless sets at any Zastava.

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3) Skyrockets and shells: Skyrockets and shells are fired to establish a communication between the Zastava and the patrolmen. [ ] don't remember the meaning of the colored skyrockets. [ ] A patrolman who needs help from the Zastava fires three shots into the air. If he hears the sound of a machine gun coming from the Zastava or the burst of a hand grenade, he has to hurry to the Zastava.

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**8 - Warning devices and barriers in the area of the 6th Otryad:**

1) Barbed wire entanglement: It is in parallel to the border line and consists of barbed wire stretched upon wooden poles, at a distance of 5-20 m from the border line, depending upon the condition of the terrain. The barbed wires are spaced 20-25 cm apart from each other. Its height is 2 m approximately. This barbed wire is the last barrier to prevent those who intend to escape from Bulgaria. In some places there is no such barrier.

2) Control trail strip: It is a strip of land which is ploughed and raked and seen to that it is always kept level, in parallel to the border line. It approaches the border line in some places, depending upon the condition of the terrain. It becomes more distant especially in rocky points. It has an approximate width of 10 m. It is considered important because it gives proof that somebody has crossed over to Bulgaria from abroad. It is checked frequently to see whether there are any traces, and if traces are found they are evaluated. It also shows when anybody crosses over from Bulgaria.

**3) Skyrocket firing device:**

It consists of a spring having a pin, a skyrocket socket, and a latch holding the spring ~~tight~~. A thin string attached to the latch is stretched up about one meter, and its other end is fastened to a fixed object. Anybody who touches the string without seeing it, causes the latch to fall. The pin at the end of the released spring hits the skyrocket which then catches fire. In this way it is understood that a stranger has approached the area and necessary steps are taken. This device is efficacious only at night, so that they are taken away during the day and put back at night by the patrols. These devices are placed to the necessary spots in every Zastava.

**4) Warning device named "Se Dva" or "Tse Dva":**

It consists of a small box with 2 wires coming out of it, used especially by the guards lying in ambush. The wires are very thin and stretched to both directions from the point where the device is fixed. They are fastened to fixed objects to keep them stretched. They are one meter above the surface of the ground. If one of the wires is broken the device gives out a sound, and by releasing one of the wires it is understood which one is broken. Then it is understood that this has been caused by a person who hit the wires., and necessary measures are taken. The wires are mostly left as they are. When the ambush duty comes to an end the guards take the device to the Zastava. Those who will take on ambush duty bring the device to the ambush spot and operate it to check the wires.

5) Barbed wire barrier: It consists of a barbed wire entanglement mostly stretched over the streams which cross the border line. It can also be called the low barbed wire barrier on account of its low height.

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6) Zaval - barbed wire barrier: It consists of thorny bushes between two barbed wires stretched upon wooden poles parallelly, extending in parallel to the border line and about 1 klm away from it depending upon the condition of the terrain. Its height is about 2 m and it is comparatively difficult to cross it. In some places there are passes but they are laid with traps so that it is dangerous to pass through.

Note: A sketch showing the spots of the warning devices and barriers at the 1st Zastava in Shtit village, is attached herewith.

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7) Besides the above there is an electrically operated warning device called "Kleon Dva and Ka-55" [redacted]

[redacted] by touching a thin wire it can be known whether there has been a contact.(?)  
[redacted] no further information concerning these.

9- Types of duty at the 6th Otryad:-

1) Dozor: Patrol duty performed by two men. It consists of checking the control trail strip in parallel to the border line. This strip is checked ~~from both points~~ all over once in two hours. .

2) Sekret: Lying in ambush. Two privates hide at night in a certain spot. They are not allowed to speak or to smoke. They avoid doing any movements that might reveal their presence. They always use the warning device called "Tse Dve" and thus have control over a larger part of the terrain. This duty is only performed at night.

3) Chasovi na Granitsa: Patrol duty performed by two men. They check the control trail strip and also patrol in the interior of the border.

4) Post Nabludenie: Observation duty. It is only performed during the day. The two privates on duty observe the terrain of neighboring countries and report what they have seen.

5) Patrul: It is performed by two men at the restricted zone behind the border line. The patrolmen check the documents of persons seen at the restricted zone, follow traces which they find suspicious, and try to catch those who want to approach the border line or cross it without being seen.

6) Granichen Konvoy: It is a group of escorts who take a person they suspect from one place to another. The number of men change according to the number of persons to be escorted. Care is taken to keep the number of escorts larger than the persons to be escorted.

7) Dejuren po Zastava: It is performed by one man within the Zastava building, mostly by sergeants or sergeant candidates . The man on duty must wake up the privates who will take on duty, serve meals to those who return from duty, and give and take their weapons.

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8) Chasovi na Zastava: It is the guard on watch duty for maintaining the security of the Zastava building. He makes the rounds within the Zastava grounds.

9) Zaslon: This watch duty is not applied currently. It consists of the following: Upon getting suspicious a group of soldiers hold a line on the terrain by being posted so as to see one another.

10) Zasada: It is a force concentrated to a point from where the suspect is known to pass.

11) Poiskova Grupa: It is a group summoned from the Zastava when a trace is seen. The group is headed by an officer and accompanied by a dog.

12) Granichna Poshta: It consists of carrying mail to and from the Zastavas which are far away from the post office.

13) Dejuren Aparatna: It is the duty at the telephone station.

10 - Method of entrusting the duties and equipment of the guards:  
The duties are entrusted according to a schedule by the Zastava commander.

The list of duties is read to the privates at the Zastava every evening between 19.00-19.30 hrs. The list indicates which private will take up duty, where, and with whom.

The private who is to go on duty has to report to the guard at the Zastava that he is ready half an hour before his duty begins. The sergeant who is on guard duty checks the private's uniform, gives him his weapon and bullets and takes him to the officer on duty.

The officer tells him what duty he has to perform and where he will go from the list in his hand. After the officer has seen the privates they are given skyrocket pistols, if necessary, a Tse Dve device or a flashlight. Then the privates are taken to the garden, fully equipped. They charge their guns and go to take up their duty at the fixed hour. Every private is entrusted with different duties at different hours each day. In duties performed by two men one of them is the commander. The commanders are usually senior privates. Patrol duty is performed by a senior and a new private.

Equipment of the guards:

- 1) Uniform - for summer or winter according to the season.
- 2) Rubber shoes - it is preferred because of being light and not noisy.
- 3) Leather boots - worn in very cold, snowy weather.
- 4) Raincoat - a cloak fabricated out of very light material.
- 5) Water-flask - has always to be filled with water.

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- 6) First aid kit - bandage, etc.
- 7) Rope - 1 m long, for tying the prisoner.
- 8) If the weapon given to the private is of Kalashnikov type then he is given 100 bullets, if it is of Simonovka type the number of bullets is 60.
- 9) If the private will take on duty near the telephone line he takes a telephone with plug with him. If he is going to a place where there is no line he takes with him a skyrocket firing pistol. (Only one of the privates is equipped with the above in patrol duty.)
- 10) White overalls - In winter the patrolmen wear white overalls above their uniforms for camouflage purposes.
- 11) Thick cotton clothes (?) - (optional) given in cold winter days.
- 12) Flashlight - the private who is to check the control trail strip carries a flashlight. Formerly gaslamps were used, but now flah lamps filled with acid and charged with electric current are being used.
- 13) Skyrocket - given to those who carry skyrocket pistols. Also some patrolmen are given skyrockets for being placed at the warning devices (?)

11 - Rations at the 6th Otryad:

Bread - 800 gr daily  
 Meals - three times a day  
     Breakfast: Tea, cheese, helga, bread.  
     Lunch: Soup, vegetables with or without meat, compote, etc.  
     Dinner: Vegetables without meat, macarroni, compote, etc.

Leather boots - one pair a year  
 Rubber shoes - one pair every three months  
 Winter clothing - One set in two years  
 Summer clothing - One set a year  
 Leave - 15 days throughout the 2-year service period  
 Sleep, rest - 8 hours a day

12 - Rewards and punishments:

The punishments at the border units consist of making the individual work on unclean jobs and to confine him (?) for one month. These punishments are given for small undisciplinatory actions. For more important guilts they are taken to court.

The rewards are: 7-day leaves, to give a special border private rosette, to promote his rank, and to let his photograph be taken with the banner. The rewards and punishments are awarded by approval of the commanders.

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13 - Searchlight at the 1st Zastava ~~xxx~~ in Shtit village:

A searchlight was brought to the 1st Zastava in Shtit. It is said that same would be installed on top of a hill in the southeast of Shtit village for lighting up the area. It has a diameter of 1.5 m.

5. Recruit training of the border units:

The period of recruit training is 2 months. The first week is spent in repairing the installations at the recruit training center. Then the training begins.

At the beginning of the training the privates are given their weapons and the lessons start. The lessons are from 08.00 to 12.30, and from 14.00 to 18.00 hrs every day. Political initiation is for two hrs a day. The Bulgarian history is taught and the present situation is examined. Especially the situation prevailing [ ] is discussed and subjects are brought up for rousing a hatred towards these two nations. 50X1-HUM

Two hrs daily are spent for teaching about weapons; one hour in shooting at targets; lessons about border duty for 2 hrs, and then [ ] went to practice them on the terrain. One hour for physical training consisting of gymnastics or cross-country races of 3 klm and a 200 m race with handicaps. [ ] also did footing exercises. After 20-25 days [ ] learnt how to salute and the ranks. [ ] also given shovels and pickaxes. 50X1-HUM

Throughout the entire training [ ] made only two maneuvers. In one of them [ ] got into the trench [ ] dug in one hour and afterwards [ ] passed through a passage in the "minefield". In the other one the squad commanders were firing skyrockets at night. When the rocket was fired [ ] took shelter and when the lights were extinguished [ ] started to attack. [ ] were also shown how to use the gasmasks in one hour. 50X1-HUM

After a month [ ] got to know the warning devices and barriers on the border line. [ ] also started the firing drills with infantry rifles. 50X1-HUM

After the oath the officers became more severe. 50X1-HUM

The examinations began [ ] Every private was examined ~~at~~ in the presence of a board on physical training, footing, (marching) using weapons, firing and border duties. Those who succeeded in the examinations were assigned to Zastavas and the others were transferred to the Komandatura or Otryad Hdqs. 50X1-HUM

6. Cooperation of the border units with the civilians and the armed

forces: [ ] didn't witness such a thing throughout my service period. [ ] there are groups in the villages who come to the aid of the Zastavas if necessary. These are volunteers equipped with weapons. In order to get reinforcements from the armed forces the Otryad Hdq. has to apply. [ ] no further information in this respect. 50X1-HUM

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